



(Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

This is an artist's rendering of the Rusafa Courthouse complex, a 5000-square-meter two-story facility when completed.

Courthouse Complex in the Making to Bolster Baghdad's 'Rule of Law'

By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Division Central District

BAGHDAD- A new regional courthouse is taking shape to help Baghdad enforce the rule of law.

Construction on Rusafa Courthouse got under way in November and is currently 25 percent complete. About 120 Iraqis are on the crew helping build the facility that is scheduled to open in December. The 5000-square-meter two-story structure will serve Rusafa District and neighboring areas east of the Tigris River benefiting over one million residents. A Witness Protection Facility is also part of the complex that will house up to 200 people testi-

fying for the prosecution.

"We're building the Rusafa Regional Courthouse for the Ministry of Interior," said Navy Lt. Robert Leines who is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). "It's a key institution in Iraq's quest for law and order." Once open, 350 Iraqis are expected to work there including judges, lawyers, investigators, administrative assistants, and security personnel.

Leines said that the majority of his staff of 50 people are Iraqi engineers. "Our Iraqi Quality Assurance representatives visit that courthouse site every day, taking photos, ensuring we're getting quality construction in a safe manner." He praised the courage those individuals dis-

play reporting to work and getting the job done. "They believe in what we're doing and want to make Iraq a better place."

He and his staff are overseeing 100 active projects valued at \$400 million including new water and sewer lines, school renovations, primary healthcare centers, upgrading gas stations, and installing new electric distribution networks in east Baghdad. He noted they work in partnership with the Baghdad public works directorate, or Amanat, and Iraqi Ministries on these projects.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is over-

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Rusafa Courthouse Quarter Completed

Courthouse From Page 1

seeing the construction of five such courthouses throughout Iraq. The Karkh Courthouse is nearing completion in western Baghdad and the others are in Mosul, Basrah, and Erbil.

"These facilities are critical to enforcement of the rule of law," explained Navy Cdr. Joseph Mauser,

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Security and Justice sector lead in Iraq. As an interim measure, a temporary courthouse has opened at Rusafa. "As the case load continues to grow, having a permanent facility with sufficient capacity becomes increasingly important," he added.

Apart from the courthouse complex itself, Rusafa also features a

facility where up to 5,400 accused individuals will be housed awaiting their arraignment or trial dates. The entire area is surrounded by concrete barriers similar to the International Zone located on the other side of the Tigris River, and they have identified themselves as a second Green Zone -- this one the "Rule of Law Green Zone."

Twin Car Bombs Explode, Iraqi Troops Dismantle Third

MND-B Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Police and emergency services responded to a pair of vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonations in northwestern Baghdad that wounded four Iraqi civilians at approximately 11 a.m., June 6.

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, operating in Baghdad with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, also responded to the explosion site providing security and assistance to the Iraqi Police in the Kadamiyah Security District shortly

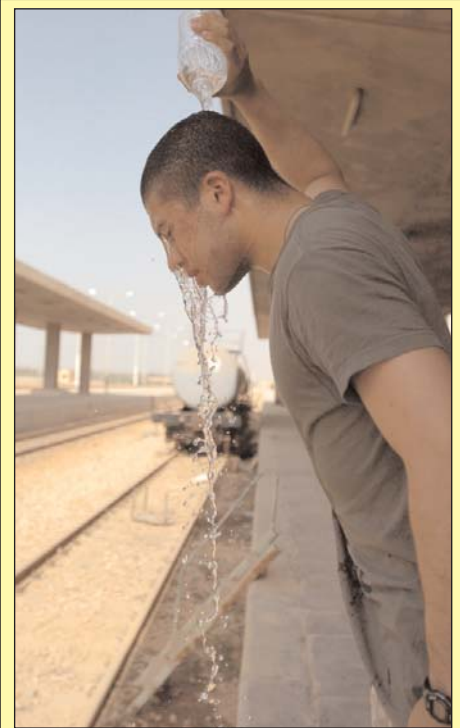
after the attack.

The unit reported only four Iraqi civilians were wounded from one of the explosions. No Iraqi civilians were killed in either blast. The injured civilians were treated for minor wounds assessed by Coalition medics on the scene.

Numerous local shops and vehicles were damaged by the explosions.

A third car bomb was found nearby approximately 50 minutes later, just south of the simultaneous explosions in a neighboring section of Kadamiyah. Iraqi Army troops found the car bomb and successfully dismantled it, reporting no injuries or damage.

The incidents are under investigation.



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

The Cool Down

Shelbyville, Ind., native Pvt. Jonathan Garcia, a scout with the Scout Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, cools off at Joint Security Station Luzon in the Abu Ghraib District of Baghdad May 26.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

sayyaara

Defined:
car

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 108
Low: 78



Tomorrow

High: 109
Low: 78



Saturday

High: 110
Low: 78

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'Gamblers' Help Local Doctors Set up Clinic at Zoo

**By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD - You'd expect to see a veterinarian working in a zoo, but a doctor? Treating people? In the Baghdad Zoo?

That was the case as Soldiers from the 15th "Gamblers" Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, helped conduct a medical operation with local Iraqi physicians inside the zoo May 28.

The Gamblers have been working at the city zoo ever since they moved from Forward Operating Base Falcon to FOB Prosperity this spring. Leaders from the battalion say there have been improvements across the board, but the troops wanted to take it to the next level in a cooperative medical engagement May 28. They helped set up a clinic inside a compound in the zoo to help local doctors do what they do best: help their fellow Iraqis.

The battalion's main role was to provide support for the doctors - logistics and security - while the doctors gave treatment to zoo employees and their family members from the surrounding areas.

"I just want to help people," said one Iraqi doctor who didn't want to be named. "Sunni or Shia, it does not matter."

Despite being concerned for his safety, the doctor maintains a clinic of his own in

an area just outside the International Zone. He said that while many militia members would probably like to see him close his shop - and perhaps worse - he practices his trade to help those in need.

His first patient of the day was an older man concerned about chest pain stemming from a 20-year-old bullet wound. The man had a five-inch scar from where the drainage tube once protruded from his chest, and although the doctor was willing to do whatever he could, he could only do the basics.

"I can only do so much for these people," he said. "The hospitals cannot offer specific or advanced treatment for some problems."

In one of the other rooms of the building, Maj. Thomas Hair was looking into the cause of one young girl's symptoms. Her father said that she hadn't been able to eat anything, only compounding her cystic fibrosis.

Hair was able to give the father some medicine and advice on how to possibly build her appetite to keep her as healthy as possible.

Throughout the day, the Iraqi doctor saw patient after patient whose symptoms ranged from colds to questions about old injuries.

While patients were seen by both American and Iraqi doctors, one man behind the counter made sure that the medicines they were prescribed were handed out and taken properly. He is a pharmacist from the same area as the Iraqi doctor. He said that they

often worked together and with Coalition Forces like the 15th BSB and civil affairs.

All while patients were seen, Soldiers maintained security around the perimeter and inside the small compound. Among them were not only Soldiers from the 15th BSB but troops from the 97th Civil Affairs Detachment, who work with Black Jack troops on a regular basis.

"This is actually our fifth event like this," said San Diego native Staff Sgt. Robert Thompson with the 97th. "One of our goals is to get more and more Iraqi healthcare providers to come out and take care of the people in their neighborhoods. We provide the logistics and security so they can do their jobs."

Over the course of three hours, more than 80 patients were seen, treated and provided medication. Not only were some illnesses treated, but Thompson hopes that events like this, one conducted on Haifa Street and the others help build confidence in the people to trust their medical system and start to rebuild the trust they once had in their doctors.

That trust is so important that the Iraqi doctors treating patients said they would do anything to build the medical system back up. One said that he sees more than 150 patients a day at his clinic in the city. Though tired and sometimes afraid, he said that he can't help but feel responsible for the people he sees every day.

"These people supported me when I was young," he said. "They supported me through school and then in my decision to become a doctor. It is only fair that I repay that support with what I'm doing for my community."

Without any breaks in between patients, the doctor and his assistant for the day, Spc. Shelby Silva from Pinckneyville, Ill., saw as many patients as they could while they shared medical information and techniques on how to diagnose certain problems.

Although many problems were solved that day, some could not be treated.

"The problem isn't diagnosing symptoms," said the Iraqi doctor. "Getting the surgery and treatment is difficult because the hospitals are too full or they do not have the capabilities."



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

An Iraqi doctor looks at the results of a magnetic resonance image of a young girl with leg problems during her visit to a clinic inside the Baghdad Zoo May 28.

If You Need Them, They Will Come

By Sgt. 1st Class Rick Emert
1st ACB Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - The saying goes that only two things in life are guaranteed: death and taxes.

In battle, there's only one: MEDEVAC.

A medical evacuation crew from Company C, 2nd "Lobo" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, proved that to be true on Memorial Day as they picked up two wounded Soldiers who needed urgent care.

Despite flying in adverse weather and coming under enemy fire, the MEDEVAC crew managed to evacuate the wounded Soldiers to a combat support hospital within about 30 minutes of being called.

"The weather was below marginal conditions," said Lt. Col. Timothy DeVito, acting commander of 1st ACB, who hails from Orlando, Fla. "No Multinational Division-Baghdad or Multinational Division-Center aircraft were flying, but in true MEDEVAC fashion, the condition of the injured Soldiers on the ground is what drove them to conduct that mission."

"The visibility was less than two miles," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Walls, the pilot in command on the MEDEVAC mission, who hails from Tampa, Fla.

"There was no Apache available (to provide security), but the mission was approved," said Sgt. Dale Hlavacek, a medic from Co. C, who calls Des Moines, Iowa home. "We had a (UH-60 Black Hawk) chase helicopter and the ground



(U.S. Army photo courtesy of Co. C, 2-227th Avn. Regt.)

Soldiers from a MEDEVAC crew, from left to right, CW2 Christopher Walls, Sgt. Dale Hlavacek, CW2 Corey Mallard and Pvt. Bryan Makepeace.

guys to provide security."

The nine-line MEDEVAC request had warned that there were enemy forces to the north, but the landing zone was secure.

"We were told (the landing zone) was secure, but you really don't know what can go on once you get down there," Walls said.

The weather turned out to be the least of their problems. Moments after the two Black Hawks landed, they came under mortar and small arms fire.

"We landed to the south," Hlavacek said. "I saw the ground element at our three o'clock. I got off and started assessing the patients. One of them was a litter patient, so I called for the crew chief (Pvt. Bryan Makepeace, from Avon Park, Fla.) to bring a litter. I heard an explosion and small arms fire. I signaled the crew chief for the aircraft to take off."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Corey Mallard, another pilot on the MEDEVAC crew, immediately knew something was wrong.

"I heard two explosions at our six o'clock," said Mallard, from College Station, Texas. "There was small arms fire hit-

ting the ground to our left. I told Makepeace to get on the aircraft. Once he got in and I saw that we were all clear, we took off. There were tracer rounds to our left, and they followed us all the way out."

Walls said it appeared the enemy initially was firing at the chase helicopter from 3rd "Spearhead" Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment. The chase helicopter was between the enemy forces and the MEDEVAC helicopter, he said.

"I could see tracer rounds in front of the helicopter. It looked like they were shooting at the chase helicopter while we were on the ground, because they were closer (to the enemy)," Walls said. "As we took off, they were shooting at both of us."

Hlavacek remained with the two injured Soldiers. One of the injured Soldiers had sustained a gunshot wound to the leg and the other had a gunshot wound to the head. The Soldier with the head wound was able to walk. Hlavacek and a few of the Soldiers from the ground unit got the injured Soldiers to cover.

The enemy forces "were in

a ditch. I could see the rounds skipping off the dirt and hear them going by," Hlavacek said. "I think they were targeting both of the aircraft. Once we got the patients to cover, I began to return fire with the ground unit. I always take my M-4 with me when I depart the aircraft, but this is the first time I have had to return fire. Usually when we land, the enemy forces will bug out and leave. These guys stayed and fired at us. They were close."

The firefight lasted for about a minute, Hlavacek said, and then the aircraft were cleared to land again. Hlavacek got smoke from the ground unit and moved the landing zone closer to where the injured Soldiers were located.

They loaded the Soldiers on the MEDEVAC helicopter and took them to the Combat Support Hospital without further incident, Hlavacek said.

"Everything is briefed (before the missions), and we have been doing this for a few months," Walls said. "I didn't have any concerns about (Hlavacek); I knew that he would be safe with the ground guys. He knew that we would be back to get him. We talk about this every day, about what we will do in this situation, and we did it just how we had planned. We brief this and talk it beforehand, and everyone just reverted to their training."

Hlavacek said that his reaction was second nature, because of previous training and the crews' many briefs on this scenario.

In the end, one thing remains the same for ground forces in Baghdad, as this crew from Co. C, 2-227th, has proven: If you call for MEDEVAC, they will come.